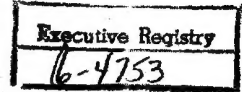


UNITED STATES CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



December 29, 1954

DEPARTMENTAL CIRCULAR NO. 782

TO HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS AND INDEPENDENT ESTABLISHMENTS

SUBJECT: Temporary Transfer to Nonsensitive Positions Pending Determination to Suspend Under Executive Order 10450.

1. There is duplicated below the text of a letter addressed to the Chairman of the U. S. Civil Service Commission by the Attorney General of the United States on December 20, 1954, relating to the above subject.

"You have asked our opinion as to whether an employee may under certain circumstances be transferred to a non-sensitive position pending completion of departmental investigation under the Employee Security program, and before he is suspended.

"I am of the view that the following provision in agency and departmental regulations would not be inconsistent with the Act of August 26, 1950, or Executive Order 10450, would eliminate a danger of hardship on some employees, and would not interfere with the effective operation of the personnel security program of the Government.


"*Pending determination of suspension in cases in which ameliorating circumstances are present and the derogatory information disclosed is not of the character set forth in subdivisions 2 through 8 of subsection (a) of Section 8 of Executive Order 10450, an employee holding a sensitive position may, with the approval of the Personnel Security Officer, be transferred temporarily to a non-sensitive position in which the interests of the national security cannot be adversely affected by the employee."

"It would be appreciated if you would circulate among the agencies and departments of the Government the contents of this suggested provision with the suggestion that it be incorporated in the Personnel Security Regulations. All should be cautioned that it will be the responsibility of the head of each department and agency to make sure that the temporary transfer of any employee from a sensitive to a non-sensitive position pending further investigation is clearly consistent with the interest of the national security.

"The agencies and departments should also be advised that the foregoing amendment does not in any way affect the existing authority of an agency or department head, after suspension and hearing, to decide whether an employee should be discharged or retained or transferred to a non-sensitive position."

2. The term "temporary transfer" as used in the Attorney General's letter can accommodate either an official position change or a detail of personnel.

3. Inquiries concerning this letter should be directed to the Civil Service Commission, Code 141, Extension 3861.


Philip Young
Chairman

Distribution: 3 copies to headquarters of agencies only.
1 copy to agency Personnel Security Officers.
1 copy to each central office bureau director,
division chief, and staff official.
3 copies to Commission regional offices.